

STEWART GULCH

238

Location

Ecoregion Section: OWYHEE UPLANDS SECTION (342C)

Watershed: 17050114

County: Ada

USGS Quad: BOISE NORTH 4311662

LAT: 434100N S: 434041N E: 1161057W

LONG: 1161200W N: 434118N W: 1161259W

Legal Description (township/range, section, meridian, note)

004N002E 14 BO S2NW4, N2SW4, N2SE4SW4

004N002E 15 BO S2NW4, S2NW4NW4, S2NE4, SW4, N2SE4, N2SW4SE4

004N002E 16 BO SE4NE4, S2NE4NE4

Directions:

The Stewart Gulch Site lies in the Boise Foothills north of Boise. It lies in the between Cartwright Road and Bogus Basin Road (E and W), and Stewart Gulch and Dry Creek (S and N).

Site Design

Designer: Bob Moseley

Date: 96-04-20

Design Justification:

The site boundary was designed to include all the rare plant populations on the south-facing slope above Stewart Gulch, between Cartwright Road and Bogus Basin Road. The primrose population on the north-facing slope at the eastern end is also included. The northern boundary runs along the divide between Stewart Gulch and Dry Creek, from the top of the pass on the Cartwright Road, east to the BLM land. The north slope on the BLM land (from the divide down to Dry Creek) is included in the site because of the presence of Wilcox's primrose. The eastern boundary runs along the BLM boundary then in the drainage down to Stewart Gulch (largely coincides with Bogus Basin Road). The western boundary runs in the drainage containing Cartwright Road. The southern boundary runs along the base of the slope, excluding the Little Owyhee Motorcycle Park.

Site Comments:

One of five proposed conservation sites for rare plants in the Boise Foothills. Stewart Gulch is the least disturbed and most defensible of the sites. Location of plots 97RM004-005.

Biological and Physical Characteristics

Size. Primary and Secondary Acres: 600.00

Primary Acres:

Elevation (ft). Minimum: 2990

Maximum: 3793

Site Description:

The site comprises the southerly slope of a high, east-west ridge above Stewart Gulch in the foothills above Boise. The south slope is steep and includes sandstone cliffs and sandy slopes. The top of the

ridge is covered by clay. The existing vegetation on the sandier sites is dominated by bitterbrush and bluebunch wheatgrass, although weedy exotics are locally common and presumably reflect the long history of domestic livestock grazing on the Boise Front. Sites with more clay are dominated by Wyoming sagebrush and bluebunch wheatgrass. Numerous fires have eliminated the shrub cover from portions of the site. An interesting "grove" of hackberry occurs on the hillside at the eastern end. Three rare plant species occur in the site. Large, high-quality populations of Mulford's milkvetch and Aase's onion occur throughout. A small population of Wilcox's primrose occurs near the eastern boundary. The site boundary on the north is Dry Creek, which has a dense riparian zone, dominated largely by water birch, with small areas of yellow willow. Numerous other tall shrubs also occur in this zone.

Key Environmental Factors: Substrate is granitics.

Climate:

Landuse History:

Extensive livestock (horse, cattle, sheep) grazing in the past.

Cultural Features:

Element Occurrences (element/size):

PURSHIA TRIDENTATA/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	0 NO DET.
ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA WYOMINGENSIS/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	
SALIX LUTEA	2
BETULA OCCIDENTALIS/POA PRATENSIS	10
ASTRAGALUS MULFORDIAE	102 AC
PRIMULA WILCOXIANA	1
ALLIUM AASEAE	150 AC

Biodiversity Significance: B1

The Stewart Gulch Site is one of five proposed conservation sites in the Boise Foothills, whose protection is necessary for the long-term maintenance of two globally-rare plant species, Mulford's milkvetch and Aase's onion. These species are threatened and declining throughout their range and the Boise Foothills represents a significant and the most vulnerable portion.

Other Values: V2

Open space in the Boise Foothills is becoming increasingly rare due to residential development. This ridge above Stewart Gulch is very prominent, being visible from a long distance.

Protection and Stewardship

Designation: PRIVATE LAND - UNPROTECTED

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN
STATE ENDOWMENT LANDS

Protection Comments:

Information Needs:

Rare plant populations have been thoroughly mapped (Moseley et al 1992).

Protection Urgency: P2

Not as threatened as Military Reserve Park and Lower Halls Gulch sites, but more defensible as a conservation reserve.

Management Needs:

Management Urgency: M3

Management needed within five years to maintain quality.

Current Landuse:

Onsite: Most of the land is used as rangeland. Cattle graze the riparian zone along Dry Creek and the vegetation reflects this use.

Offsite: An 80 acre tract in Section 15 is owned by the Owyhee Motorcycle Club, and a portion of this is used as a racetrack. Other adjacent land is used for grazing.

Exotic Species Comments:

MA Comments:

Two powerlines cross the site, and right-of-ways presumably exist for both of them. Fences and a jeep road also occur within the site.

References

- U92MOS05IDUS Moseley, R. K., M. Mancuso, and J. Hilty. 1992. Rare plant and riparian vegetation inventory of the Boise Foothills, Ada County, Idaho. Unpublished report on file at: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Conservation Data Center, Boise. 20 pp. plus appendices.
- U96MOS06IDUS Moseley, R. K. 1996. Conservation reserves for threatened plants in the Boise Foothills. Unpublished report. Not paged.
- U95MAN01IDUS Mancuso, M. 1995. Draft conservation strategy for *Allium aaseae* Ownbey (Aase's onion). Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise. 8 pp. plus appendices.
- U95MAN02IDUS Mancuso, M. 1995. Draft habitat conservation assessment for *Allium aaseae* Ownbey (Aase's onion). Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise. 19 pp. plus appendices.
- M97BLM01IDUS Bureau of Land Management, Lower Snake River District. 1997. Special status plants: eighth street fire area.

Record Maintenance

Lead Responsibility: USIDHP

Edition Date: 96-04-20 **Edition Author:** Bob Moseley

JUMP CREEK
132

Location

Ecoregion Section: OWYHEE UPLANDS SECTION (342C)

Watershed: 17050103

County: Owyhee

USGS Quad: JUMP CREEK CANYON 4311648

LAT: 432745N S: 432656N E: 1165518W

LONG: 1165600W N: 432844N W: 1165702W

Legal Description (township/range, section, meridian, note)

001N005W	04	BO	PORTION
001N005W	05	BO	SE4SE4NE4 and E2NE4SE4
002N005W	27	BO	SW4
002N005W	28	BO	SE4SE4SE4
002N005W	33	BO	E2 and S2SE4SW4
002N005W	34	BO	W2NW4

Directions:

Jump Creek Canyon lies along the northern slope of the Owyhee Mountains, about 7 miles SW of Marsing. Use local roads west off of Hwy 95, a couple of miles south of the Homedale-Marsing junction, to access the mouth of the canyon.

Site Design

Designer: R.K. Moseley

Date: 87-07-01

Design Justification:

Includes the canyon from above the falls, upstream to the upper springs, which appears to be the area with the least impacts and conflicts.

Site Comments:

Location of plats 97RM011-014.

Biological and Physical Characteristics

Size. Primary and Secondary Acres: 612.00

Primary Acres:

Elevation (ft). Minimum: 2600

Maximum: 3905

Site Description:

Jump Creek Canyon proposed RNA/ACEC consists of a steep, narrow canyon with several undisturbed riparian and aquatic communities and an upland sagebrush community occurring in isolated pockets on the otherwise vertical canyon sides. At the uppermost limit of the canyon and the proposed area there is no perennial flow in the creek; however, considerable spring or flash flooding takes place. Riparian vegetation here is sparse, consisting mostly of tall forbs and mesic-site grasses. Ephemeral pools and deep, isolated perennial pools are common. Downstream from this area numerous springs discharge along a quarter-mile stretch of creek. Below the springs, the water flow in Jump Creek is constant to the lower boundary of the proposed area at

Jump Creek Falls. A very dense, shrubby community occurs along the stream dominated by syringa. Lesser amounts of red-osier dogwood also occur in the stands. Below this area the canyon narrows and the stream flows over a series of cataracts. As the stream widens again two riparian communities dominated by water birch occur: one with a gallery of birch and a sparse understory of syringa along the creek, the second community occurs on stream terraces and has a mixed forb understory. Arroyo willow occurs as dense stands near the upper limit of permanent water and in the ephemeral section. Stands of Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass occur in pockets on the canyon walls. Redband trout occurs in several populations throughout the length of the perennial-flowing creek and in some of the permanent pools upstream.

Key Environmental Factors:

The hydrologic regime is largely spring-fed, although high spring flows and/or flash floods do occur. Substrate is rhyolite.

Climate:

Landuse History:

The surrounding landscape has been grazed by livestock for many years but they appear to have been physically excluded from the canyon by steep terrain. Heavy recreational use takes place below the lower site boundary and Jump Creek Falls.

Cultural Features:

No cultural features were observed in the canyon.

Element Occurrences (element/size):

ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA VASEYANA/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	0 NO DET.
BETULA OCCIDENTALIS	0 NO DET.
BETULA OCCIDENTALIS/MESIC FORB	10
PHILADELPHUS LEWISII	30+
BETULA OCCIDENTALIS/PHILADELPHUS LEWISII	50+
SALIX LASIOLEPIS COVER TYPE	10+

Biodiversity Significance: B3

This site is an excellent riparian and aquatic reference site, unique at relatively low elevations in southwestern Idaho. The vulnerable aquatic species, redband trout, are abundant in the creek.

Other Values: V2

Very high scenic values are present, as well as chukars.

Protection and Stewardship

Designation: PROPOSED RESEARCH NATURAL AREA
PROPOSED AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL

Protection Comments:

Information Needs:

Protection Urgency: P2

Management Needs:

Management Urgency: M4

No current threats but may need conservation management in the future.

Current Landuse:

Onsite: A portion of the area is currently designated a recreation site. The hiking trail, trash, and fire

rings observed in the canyon above the falls during 1997, are new since a visit in 1987, when no evidence of human use was visible.

Offsite: The intense recreational pressure below the site appears to be spilling over to the canyon above the falls. Evidence of use has increased in the last decade.

Exotic Species Comments:

MA Comments:

Lower Snake River District BLM, Owyhee RA.

References

U87MOS10IDUS Moseley, B. 1987. Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern Recommendation for Jump Creek Canyon. Unpublished report for the Boise District BLM, Owyhee Resource Area. 6 pp.

Record Maintenance

Lead Responsibility: USIDHP

Edition Date: 97-12-10 Edition Author: R.K. Moseley

TNC TRACT - SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY

378

Location

Ecoregion Section: OWYHEE UPLANDS SECTION (342C)

Watershed: 17050103047

County: Ada

USGS Quad: SINKER BUTTE 4311624

LAT: 431130N S: 431120N E: 1162240W

LONG: 1162250W N: 431200N W: 1162252W

Legal Description (township/range, section, meridian, note)

002S001E 31 BO SW4SE4

003S001E 6 BO portion

Directions:

About 2.5 miles SE of Sinker Butte; ca 0.5 mile north of the mouth of Sinker Creek; on the E side of the Snake River, between river mile 459 and 460.

Site Design

Designer: Moseley, Bob

Date: 97-11-30

Design Justification:

Site boundaries follow low river terrace, mostly owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Site Comments:

Location of plots 97RM020 and 97RM021.

Biological and Physical Characteristics

Size. Primary and Secondary Acres: 70.00

Elevation (ft). Minimum: 2320

Site Description:

The site is a river terrace adjacent to the dam pool behind Swan Falls Dam in the Snake River canyon. The shoreline is meandering and creates embayments largely dominated by *Scirpus acutus*. Most of the terrace is habitat for the *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*/*Distichilis stricta* community. Extensive stands of *Salix exigua*/Barren occur along the river edge. Adjacent canyon slopes are dominated by *Atriplex confertifolia* communities.

Key Environmental Factors:

Fluctuations of the dam pool control the hydrology of the site. Fire burned a portion of the *Sarcobatus* community and most of the upland canyon sides within the last few years.

Element Occurrences (element/size):

SCIRPUS ACUTUS	10 AC
SARCOBATUS VERMICULATUS/DISTICHILIS STRICTA	30 AC
SALIX EXIGUA/BARREN	5 AC
TEUCRIUM CANADENSE VAR OCCIDENTALE	3 AC

Biodiversity Significance: B3

Contains an excellent, undisturbed example of the *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*/*Distichilis stricta* community. The rare plant, *Teucrium canadense*, also occurs here.

Other Values: V3

The site is sometimes used by floating recreationists. Waterfowl and shorebirds use the site for loafing, feeding, and possibly nesting.

Protection and Stewardship

Designation: TNC PRESERVE

Protection Comments:

Site partially occurs on TNC land. The remainder is BLM and a very small portion of other private land.

Protection Urgency: P4

Management Needs:

Monitoring of fire recovery and Russian olive population.

Management Urgency: M3

Area burned recently and affects in site quality are largely unknown.

Recreation use does not appear to be impacting the quality of the site.

Current Landuse:

Onsite: Light recreational use.

Offsite:

Exotic Species Comments:

Dense stands of Russian olive tress occur in a few areas around the site. They should be monitored and controlled if they increase much more than they already are.

References

Myhre, J., and A. Clements. 1972. A study of the flora of the islands and the shoreline of the Snake River between Grandview, Idaho, and Guffey Butte, Owyhee County, Idaho: Junly, 1972. Snake River Regional Studies Center, College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID: 23 p.

Record Maintenance

Lead Responsibility: USIDHP

Edition Date: 98-01-06 Edition Author: B. Moseley

LITTLE JACKS CREEK

145

Location

Ecoregion Section: OWYHEE UPLANDS SECTION (342C)

Watershed: 17050102

County: Owyhee

USGS Quad: O X LAKE 4211662

BIG HORSE BASIN GAP 4211661

LAT: 423943N S: 423839N E: 1160710W

LONG: 1160837W N: 424030N W: 1161025W

Legal Description (township/range, section, meridian, note)

009S002E 01 BO S2, E2E2NE4

009S002E 12 BO E2, E2NW4

009S003E 05 BO portion

009S003E 06 BO portion

009S003E 07 BO portion

009S003E 08 BO portion

009S003E 17 BO N2

Directions:

Little Jacks Creek is about 23 miles SW of Bruneau. The site is reached by a series of poor roads via the Shoofly Creek Road SE of Bruneau.

Site Design

Designer: Caicco, S. L., and Wellner, C. A.

Date: 83-09-00

Design Justification:

Boundaries include the ungrazed and inaccessible portion of the plateau, although no easy physical features define this well, and an inaccessible segment of Little Jacks Creek canyon and the western slope above of the lower Rattlesnake Creek canyon.

Site Comments:

Size is recorded from digitized site acreage. Location of plots 97RM015-017.

Biological and Physical Characteristics

Size. Primary and Secondary Acres: 1,921.00

Primary Acres: 1,921.00

Elevation (ft). Minimum: 4060

Maximum: 5280

Site Description:

The site encompasses part of the Owyhee Plateau and a segment of the very steep, deep Little Jacks Creek canyon, as well as lower Rattlesnake Creek. The site contains undisturbed examples of several major sagebrush-steppe habitat types, the most extensive being: low sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass, low sagebrush Sandberg bluegrass, and Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass. Extensive stand of dense riparian vegetation dominate the Little Jacks Creek stream bottom, mostly arroyo willow, with some red-osier dogwood at the upstream end.

Stream terraces above the high water are dominated by chokecherry/blue wildrye stands. Rattlesnake Creek is an ephemeral drainage. Rhyolite cliff bands, boulderfields and talus occur on the canyon slopes.

Key Environmental Factors:

Fire is an important ecological process here, although the low sagebrush stands on the plateau probably have an infrequent return interval. Little Jacks Creek maintains a constant year-round flow, although is affected by high spring flows and flash floods. Substrate is rhyolite.

Climate:

Landuse History:

Cattle grazing has taken place in the vicinity of the site for many years, however, the plateau portion is several miles from the nearest water source, so has been isolated from grazing.

Cultural Features:

No archeological sites are known to exist within site boundaries.

Element Occurrences (element/size):

OVIS CANADENSIS CALIFORNIANA	25
ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA TRIDENTATA/FESTUCA IDAHOENSIS	
ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA TRIDENTATA/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	
CORNUS SERICEA	0 NO DET.
ARTEMISIA ARBUSCULA ARBUSCULA/POA SECUNDA	200
ARTEMISIA ARBUSCULA ARBUSCULA/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	200
ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA WYOMINGENSIS/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	350
SALIX LASIOLEPIS COVER TYPE	40+
PRUNUS VIRGINIANA/ELYMUS GLAUCUS	10

Biodiversity Significance: B3

The site has high biodiversity values including extensive stands of ungrazed sagebrush-steppe in several physical settings (canyon slopes and bottoms and on the plateau), redband trout, California big horn sheep, and extensive riparian vegetation, including a very large stand of arroyo willow.

Other Values: V2

The area is very scenic.

Protection and Stewardship

Designation: RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

Protection Comments:

Site occurs entirely within an established RNA.

Information Needs:

Protection Urgency: P4

No major threats exist that would compromise its RNA status.

Management Needs:

Fence plateau and install fence gaps to prevent cattle trespass in riparian zones.

Management Urgency: M4

No great management urgency, but condition should be monitored periodically.

Current Landuse:

Onsite: Some old signs of cattle grazing were observed in 1997 along the bottom of Rattlesnake Creek and

along the lower end of Little Jacks Creek near the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek.

Offsite: Water quality in Little Jacks Creek is largely controlled off-site, and is most affected by cattle grazing in the headwaters.

Exotic Species Comments:

No major problems with exotic species were observed in 1997.

MA Comments:

References

U89CRA04IDUS Crawford, R. C., J. S. Kagan, and R. K. Moseley. 1989. Final Report, Phase II, 1989 National Natural Landmark Project, Columbia Plateau Natural Region Ecological Themes; Including the following ecological theme site evaluations: Ponderosa Pine, Grand Fir, Low Sagebrush, Stiff Sagebrush, Salt Desert Shrub, and Montane, Subalpine, and Alpine parklands and Wetlands. Unpublished report prepared for the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Seattle, WA. 91 pp.

U89MOS16IDUS Moseley, R. K. 1989. National Natural Landmark evaluation. Little Jacks Creek Research Natural Area (Idaho). Prepared for: U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Seattle, WA. Unpublished report on file at: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Conservation Data Center, Boise. 22 pp.

U83CAI01IDUS Caicco, S. L., and C. A. Wellner. 1983. Research Natural Area recommendation for Cottonwood Creek, BLM, Boise District, ID. Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee mimeo report. 11 pp.

Record Maintenance

Lead Responsibility: USIDHP

Edition Date: 97-12-10 Edition Author: R.K. Moseley